



Welcome to Momentum 2006

Ideas. Connection. Action. Change.

That is our gameplan this weekend. By participating in this year's Momentum conference, you have surrounded yourself with a group of peers with a common goal: to accelerate positive social change. Over the next few days, you will be a key part of a group of strategic thinkers and activists helping each other develop funding strategies to build a stronger movement.

We are coming together to challenge and clarify our Ideas about what social change can be. We have established an online networking system to encourage Connection (while maintaining the option of privacy). Our goal is to explore and develop real Action plans in the form of concrete funding strategies to support the constantly evolving movements for social Change.

In this binder, you will find a series of "Briefings" and "Resources" on the eight issue areas we are focusing on: Civic Participation, Vision and Values, Race & Poverty, Global Change, Arts & Culture, Economic Justice, Reproductive Justice, and Sustainability. The Briefings consist of some preliminary thoughts on the framework for developing effective funding strategies. For the Resources, we have compiled a series of articles that illuminate the context we are working within each of these topics. We hope that these materials will give you the information you need to develop concrete funding strategies this weekend.

While the opportunities for progressives may be expanding, the structural obstacles facing our movement still plague us — and we must address them head on. An integrated movement is a more effective movement. At Momentum 2006, we would like to develop deeper connections in our vibrant community of donors. We also want to explicitly support connections across fields, across strategies, and across the country among activists doing important work.

But a community is not just a list of names. As mentioned above, by coming to this conference you now have access to cutting-edge social networking technology. IntroNetworks is an online tool that will allow Momentum attendees to begin, continue or expand dialogues with your peers — all while maintaining your privacy and even anonymity if you so desire. This tool will help foster collaboration and allow you to stay connected after the conference is over. And, believe it or not, it's actually quite fun.

Thank you for your participation in Momentum 2006. From all of the Momentum partner organizations, we hope you have a productive and fun-filled weekend!

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